

Art Unit: 2166

DETAILED ACTION

- a. This action is taken in response to amendments and remarks filed on 11/5/2008.
- b. Claims 1-25 and 28-29 (renumber as 1-27) are allowed.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 5, 2008 has been entered.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney Matt Gaffney on January 13, 2009.

Please enter the amendment filed on 11/5/08 and further amend as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for use in populating an electronic address book, comprising:

Art Unit: 2166

searching, over a network, through at least one archive of e-mails for an e-mail address, each of the at least one archive of e-mails being based on a different application from a first application used to initiate the searching; to receive a first defined criteria communicated over the network from a client browser during a communication session with the first application; and to create the electronic address book;

evaluating the e-mail address based on the first defined criterion, which limits the selection of the e-mail address based on a prior communication action performed using the e-mail address; and

automatically adding the e-mail address to the electronic address book in a priority order based on the first defined criterion if the first defined criterion is satisfied, wherein the e-mail address is added to a folder within the electronic address book, such that the folder is with the application that is associated with the at least one archive that is associated with the e-mail address, wherein evaluating the e-mail address to the electronic address book further includes providing a relevancy rating for each e-mail address, and wherein factors that affect the relevancy rating of each e-mail address include: frequency of occurrence of the e-mail address, similarity of language in a body of the e-mail with language in outgoing e-mails, a date associated with the e-mail address, and whether the e-mail address associated with the e-mail containing other e-mail address already included in the electronic address book.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching includes searching a "from" field, a "to" field and a "cc" field.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluating includes determining if the e-mail address already exists in the electronic address book, and not adding the e-mail address in the electronic address book if it already exists in the electronic address book.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the evaluating includes evaluating the e-mail address based on a second defined criterion; and the adding includes adding the e-mail address to the electronic address book if both the first and the second defined

Art Unit: 2166

criterion are satisfied, and not adding the e-mail address to the electronic address book unless both the first and second defined criteria are satisfied.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if the at least one archive from which the e-mail address was retrieved includes an organization of emails;
organizing the electronic address book according to at least a portion of the organization of the at least one archive from which the e-mail address was retrieved; and
the adding includes adding the e-mail such that the e-mail address is added according to the organized address book.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
generating a retrieved list of e-mail addresses retrieved during the searching that satisfy the first defined criterion; and
the adding includes adding the e-mail addresses if the e-mail address is confirmed to be added.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
generating a verification list of at least the e-mail address added to the address book.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
receiving confirmation of additions based on the retrieved list prior to the adding the e-mail address.
9. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for use in generating and maintaining an address book, comprising:
accessing, over a network, an electronic archive comprising a list of e-mail addresses generated with a first application;
parsing, over the network, the electronic archive for the e-mail addresses, based on the first application;

Art Unit: 2166

applying a first criterion to a first retrieved e-mail address, wherein the first criterion is received over the network from a client browser during a communication session with a different application that ~~also generates the electronic address book and~~ generates a different archive comprising a different list of email addresses, and wherein the first criterion limits the selection of the retrieved e-mail address based on a prior communication action performed using the retrieved e-mail address; and

adding the first retrieved e-mail address to an electronic address book in a priority order based on the first criterion if the first criterion is met, wherein the first retrieved e-mail address is added to a folder within the electronic address book that is identified with the different application, wherein applying the first criterion further includes providing a relevancy rating for each e-mail address, and wherein factors that affect the relevancy rating of each e-mail address include: frequency of occurrence of the e-mail address, similarity of language in a body of the e-mail with language in outgoing e-mails, a date associated with the e-mail address, and whether the e-mail address associated with the e-mail containing other e-mail address already included in the electronic address book.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the applying includes applying a second criterion to the first retrieved address; and the adding includes adding the first retrieved address to the electronic address book if both the first and second criteria are met.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
supplying a plurality of criteria options; and
receiving a selection of criteria including the first and second criteria.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the archive includes an archive of e-mails; and the parsing includes parsing a plurality of fields associated with each e-mail of the archive.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

Art Unit: 2166

accessing, over the network, an external archive comprising a second list of e-mail addresses generated with a second application;

parsing the external archive for e-mail addresses;

retrieving e-mail addresses from the external archive; and

applying the first and second criteria; and

adding the retrieved e-mail addresses from the external archive if the retrieved e-mail addresses from the external archives meet both the first and second criteria.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
determining if the archive includes an organizational folder;
determining if the e-mail address was retrieved from the organizational folder; and
generating the folder within the electronic addresses book.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
generating a nickname in association with the first retrieved e-mail address; and
adding the nickname associated with the first retrieved e-mail address to the electronic address book.
16. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in generating and updating an electronic address book, comprising:
a transceiver in communication with the network;
a processor in communication with the transceiver; and
a memory in communication with the processor, and storing processor executable instructions that cause the processor to perform a plurality of actions, including:
an electronic address book configured to store one or more e-mail addresses;
means for scanning, over a network, configured to search one or more archives for at least one e-mail address and to retrieve the at least one e-mail address, wherein each of the one or more archives is generated with a different application from a first application used to initiate the search; to filter the e-mail address according to a criterion communicated over the network

Art Unit: 2166

from a client browser during a communication session with the first application; and to create the address book;

means for filtering configured to receive the at least one e-mail address from the means for scanning and to pass the e-mail address if the e-mail address satisfies the criterion of the means for filtering, wherein the criterion limits the selection of e-mail address based on a prior communication action performed using the e-mail address; and

means for adding configured to add the at least one e-mail address to the address book in a priority order based on the criterion if the at least one address is passed by the filter, wherein the e-mail address is added to a folder within the address book such that the folder is identified with the different application, wherein the means for filtering is further configured to provide a relevancy rating for each e-mail address, and wherein factors that affect the relevancy rating of each e-mail address include: frequency of occurrence of the e-mail address, similarity of language in a body of the e-mail with language in outgoing e-mails, a date associated with the e-mail address, and whether the e-mail address associated with the e-mail containing other e-mail address already included in the address book.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the archive includes a plurality of e-mails having a plurality of fields; and the means for scanning is configured to scan the plurality of fields of the plurality of e-mails.

18. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with code segments for use in populating an electronic address book, the computer readable medium comprising:

a code segment for searching, over a network, through at least one electronic archive of e-mails for e-mail addresses, each of the at least one electronic archive of emails being based on a different application from a first application used to initiate the searching; to receive a first defined criteria communicated over the network from a client browser during a communication session with the first application; and to create the electronic address book;

a code segment for evaluating a retrieved e-mail address based on the first defined criterion, which limits the selection of the retrieved e-mail address based on a prior communication action performed using the retrieved e-mail address; and

Art Unit: 2166

a code segment for adding the retrieved e-mail address to the electronic address book if the first defined criterion is satisfied, wherein the retrieved email address is added to a sub-folder within the electronic address book, such that the sub-folder is identified with the different application, wherein the code segment for evaluating is further configured to provide a relevancy rating for each e-mail address, and wherein factors that affect the relevancy rating of each e-mail address include: frequency of occurrence of the e-mail address, similarity of language in a body of the e-mail with language outgoing e-mails, a date associated with the e-mail address, and whether the e-mail address associated with the e-mail containing other e-mail address already included in the electronic address book.

19. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:
a code segment for evaluating retrieved the e-mail address based on a second criterion;
and

the code segment for adding is configured to add the retrieved e-mail address to the electronic address book if both the first and second criteria are satisfied.

20. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:
a code segment for supplying a plurality of criteria options; and
a code segment for receiving a selection of criteria including the first and second criteria.

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in populating an electronic address book over a network, comprising:

a transceiver in communication with the network;
a processor in communication with the transceiver; and
a memory in communication with the processor, and storing processor executable instructions that cause the processor to perform a plurality of actions, including:
accessing, over the network, a plurality of archives of e-mails for an e-mail, each of the plurality of archives of e-mails being within a different one of a plurality of applications;
parsing the e-mail to obtain an e-mail address based at least in part on a first one of the plurality of applications that is associated with the e-mail, and to determine a relevance

Art Unit: 2166

rating for the email address based on whether language in a body of the e-mail is utilized in outgoing e-mails in a selected user's archive of outgoing e-mails that is within a second one of the plurality of applications;

automatically adding the e-mail address to the electronic address book in a priority order based on the relevance rating, wherein the e-mail address is added to a folder within the electronic address book, such that the folder is identified with the first one of the plurality of applications that is associated with the email; and

providing to a user device, over the network, an access to the electronic address book, wherein adding the e-mail address to the electronic address book further includes providing a relevancy rating for each e-mail address, and wherein factors that affect the relevancy rating of each e-mail address include: frequency of occurrence of the e-mail address, similarity of language in a body of the e-mail with language in the outgoing e-mails in the selected user's archive of outgoing emails, a date associated with the e-mail address, and whether the e-mail address associated with the e-mail containing other e-mail address already included in the electronic address book.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein adding the e-mail address to the electronic address book further comprises adding the e-mail address if the e-mail address occurs at a certain frequency, wherein the e-mail address is automatically excluded if the e-mail address occurs below the certain frequency, the e-mail address is similar to another e-mail address, or a date associated with the e-mail address meets a threshold.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the electronic address book is stored at least on one of the user device, the apparatus, or another network device.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein at least one of the plurality archives of e-mails is stored on the apparatus, the user device, or another network device.

Art Unit: 2166

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the parsing further comprises sending a parsing instruction to cause remote parsing of the e-mail on a network device which stores the plurality of archives of e-mails.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in populating a destination electronic address book over a network, comprising:

a transceiver in communication with the network;

a processor in communication with the transceiver; and

a memory in communication with the processor, and storing processor executable instructions that cause the processor to perform a plurality of actions, including:

accessing a first source electronic address book for a first e-mail address that is also associated with a first phone number, the first source electronic address book comprising a list of e-mail addresses generated with a first application that is different from a destination application used to generate the destination electronic address book;

evaluating the e-mail address based on a first defined criterion that includes a frequency with which the e-mail address is detected in an archive of e-mails that are associated with the destination electronic address book; and

adding the e-mail address and the phone number to the destination electronic address book if the first defined criterion is satisfied, wherein the e-mail address and phone number are added in a priority order based on the first defined criterion into a folder of the destination electronic address book that is associated with the first defined criterion and is identified with the first application, wherein evaluating the e-mail address further includes providing a relevancy rating for each e-mail address, and wherein factors that affect the relevancy rating of each e-mail address include: frequency of occurrence of the e-mail address, similarity of language in a body of the e-mail with language in outgoing e-mails, a date

Art Unit: 2166

associated with the e-mail address, and whether the e-mail address associated with the e-mail containing other e-mail address already included in the electronic address book.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the actions further comprising:

accessing a second source electronic address book for a second e-mail address, the second source electronic address book comprising a list of e-mail addresses generated with a second application;

evaluating the second e-mail address based on the first defined criterion; and

adding the second e-mail address to the destination electronic address book if the first defined criterion is satisfied.

Reason for Allowance

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of records does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of elements, as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 16, 21, and 28. More specifically, the prior art of records does not teach or suggest, independently or in combination, the combination of claimed elements including the specific features as argued by Applicant and further amended by an Examiner's Amendment.

Claim 18 recites "A computer readable medium encoded with code segments for use in,...". Since claim 18 recites "A computer readable medium encoded with code segments," it is clear that the computer readable medium or media is the type of medium that is capable of storing data/information/instructions. However, the specification of the application does not explicitly define what constitutes "a computer readable medium or media." The Examiner, in

Art Unit: 2166

examining claim 18, interprets that the limitation “a computer readable medium or media” includes only those medium or media that are statutory subject matter.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification and are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEW-FEN LIN whose telephone number is (571)272-2672. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2166

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Shew-Fen Lin /S. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 2166
January 14, 2009

/Hosain T Alam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2166